

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Case No. 97,078-O)**

**PATENT**

<b>In application of:</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Gocke <i>et al.</i></b>	)	<b>Before the Examiner:</b>
	)	<b>K.R. Horlick</b>
<b>Serial No.     10/646,397</b>	)	
	)	<b>Group Art Unit: 1637</b>
<b>Filed:            August 22, 2003</b>	)	
	)	
<b>For:              Detection of Extracellular Tumor-</b>	)	
<b>Associated Nucleic Acid in Blood</b>	)	
<b>Plasma or Serum using Nucleic Acid</b>	)	
<b>Amplification Assay</b>	)	

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action mailed in the above-identified application on March 6, 2006. Their response will therefore be due on September 6, 2006.

Applicants are entitled to Small Entity Status. By the signature of their undersigned attorney, the Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account 13-2490 for the full amount of the required fee.

If the Examiner in charge of this application believes it to be helpful, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,  
**\McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP**

Date: September 6, 2006

By:    /Kevin E. Noonan/  
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